



# THE VOTER

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

Summer, 2008

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

What does league mean to us? Michelle and I were mulling this over one afternoon, talking about why it is a good organization to be involved in with all the myriad of choices available. For Michelle, League is an organization of independent thinkers who want to get involved at the grassroots level. That is one of the great things about League-not only is it grassroots, but it is grassroots at whatever level interests its members- local, county, state or national. At the very basic and most important level we register voters. At all levels, when it comes time to vote, League is a non-partisan information source. This is what I appreciate most about League, members and voters can receive information in a variety of ways, through studies, candidate forums, voter guides and the website [www.411.org](http://www.411.org). Michelle and I both agreed the League doesn't care how you vote, but that you have the information necessary so that you can make an informed vote when you go to the polls.

Michelle and Kristin, our representatives at the national convention, heard a speech from National League President, Mary Wilson. She said in part, "I have for all of my 25 years as a member of the League understood and supported the fact that the League of Women Voters is a premier example of a grassroots organization at work. Do you realize that we are one of very few non-profits left that has a vibrant, active, well organized grassroots organization in every state, and that many other organizations want to work with us. For example, the DC Votes coalition loved our ability to reach out in communities all across the country and tell people that the citizens of the District of Columbia should have the same right to voting representation in Congress that each of us enjoys. American Express was willing to fund voter education projects because they knew we had leagues in their home cities that had already been doing this important work for many years."

Looking at recent and upcoming events we are covering all levels of League involvement. Over the summer we registered voters at the Cantigny Art Fair and at the Back to School Fair at the Du Page County Fairgrounds. The Civic Betterment Study Group has been busy and will present their findings at our fall Kick Off meeting on September 11th. On the state level we will be providing information about the Constitutional Convention, and at the national level we are helping the Elmhurst League, who is doing the heavy lifting, with the candidate forum for the upcoming 6th congressional district race. Wow! We have also done a bit of socializing. In July, we held our second book club meeting. We had a great turnout that led to a lively discussion about the book, Un-Spun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation. The book helps anyone become savvier about political and commercial information. We are also looking forward to our Summer Coffee which has been misnamed for many years because the beverage of choice is usually something a bit cooler. Please join us for our Wine and Cheese get together and sip a glass of wine and hear what our library has to offer while catching up with your League friends.

See you at the Summer Soiree!!! Shawn & Michelle

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### CALENDAR

- August 21- Summer Wine and Cheese Party at Ursula Bryant's, 7:00 p.m.
- September 11th- Unit Meeting ,Civic Betterment Party Study Report, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
- October 5th or 12th- 6th Congressional Candidate's Forum, York High School, 5-7 p.m.
- October 9th- Unit Meeting, Con-Con, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.



## **SEPTEMBER KICK OFF MEETING FINAL REPORT OF THE CIVIC BETTERMENT STUDY COMMITTEE**

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our first unit meeting of the year on Thursday, September 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. The Civic Betterment study group has been busy this spring and summer studying the way that surrounding communities slate their candidates for local offices, and how the Civic Betterment Party in Glen Ellyn operates. In addition, the committee is looking at our own league guidelines for participating in that process. This is a timely study since the next slate of candidates will be elected at the town meeting this November. This will be a consensus meeting and we look forward to your input.

### **2008 MARY LUGINBILL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

This year we found an amazing woman to receive our scholarship. She's very different from any of those we've selected in the past. Let me tell you about her by using her own words in her essay to us: "I'm looking forward to going to college next year because I never knew that college could be in my future until my positive experiences at GBW. Not only will I be the first to graduate high school in my family, but also the first to go to college, thanks to the people who saw potential in me...I look back now and understand that D's are not acceptable, that experience is knowledge, that anger can be redirected, and that getting involved at school and in the community gives me joy."

As you may surmise, this young woman has had a difficult life. She describes her freshman year as "in the dirt" from all the poor decisions she made. Fortunately, a caring adult at GBW stepped into her life, saw the potential in her and became her champion, as well as her legal guardian. Our recipient began blossoming from that moment forward. She has worked very hard to achieve A's and B's and gotten very involved in school activities as a Senior Mentor and Peer mentor. She's been very involved in PADS and the Warming House, and worked part-time for District 87 for the last several years. She plans to attend Valparaiso University in Indiana and major in Elementary Education/Social Work so that she can help students that struggle in school.

Due to the recipient's extreme financial circumstances, we would like to consider renewing her scholarship for the next 3 years, until she graduates. To allow us to renew the scholarship of our 2008 recipient, as well as give a 2009 senior a scholarship, we will need to raise an additional \$2000 for each of the next 3 years. We encourage you to make a tax deductible contribution to our scholarship fund today! Make your check payable to the DuPage Community Foundation, and put LWVGE scholarship on the memo line. Send your check to the DuPage Community Foundation, 104 E. Roosevelt Road, Suite 204, Wheaton, IL 60187. There will be updates in the Voter on how our fundraising drive is going. We will need to raise \$2000 by February 1, 2009 to renew this scholarship so that we can notify our scholar of our renewed award.

Sherry Crumbaugh, Scholarship Chair



## FINANCE DRIVE STILL IN PROGRESS

The Finance Drive is still in progress, and I want to thank Cleo Burtis for sending out all the letters and Midge Anderson for putting the ads together. I would also like to thank the following members who have given either to the LWVGE or the Education Fund: Sarah Allen, Rinda Allison, Cleo Burtis, Margaret DeLaRosa, Sonja Faulkner, Barb Fried, Karen Gorz, Jean Griffin, Lynda Hoornbeck, Laura Lee, Eileen Lefort, Elizabeth MacKenzie, Celia Rodee, Reuben and Carolyn Slone, Kathleen Slovick, Judy Webster and Anne Zeidman for a total member contribution of \$1025.00. Coupled with the \$970 from our business partners, our grand total is \$1995.00. If anyone else would like to give, you can send checks, payable to LWVGE, to Barb Fried, 255 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 or Glen Ellyn League Of Women Voters, P.O. Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138. Lastly, I would like to thank all of our business partners for purchasing ad space, and I encourage all of our members to support these local businesses!

Barb Fried, Finance Drive Chair

## LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

It is with deep sadness that we report that one of our members, Sara Lee, passed away in May after a short battle with cancer. Sara's extensive list of volunteer activities outside of League included: Village of Glen Ellyn Trustee; DuPage County Regional Office of Education Advisory Board; Citizens Advisory Council for Glenbard South High School; Civic Betterment Party Nominating Committee; Volunteer for Referendum Committees for both School Districts 87 and 89; President of the Raintree Homeowner's Association; Participant in Glen Ellyn Vision 2000; Community Park Committee; and St. Petronille's School Parent Organization. She is survived by her husband, Chip, a daughter, Jennifer, and her two sons, Peter and Jonathan. Sara was an avid gardener, fabulous cook and a warm, outgoing person. She will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to our very own Dan and Midge Anderson who received the Friends of the Library Award at the DuPage Library Systems annual awards banquet in June for their work with the Glen Ellyn Library.

Thank you to Michelle Peterson, Kristin Malone, Lucy Dallman, Julie Nolan and Shawn Fasules for staffing our ladybug booth at a recent Glen Ellyn Farmer's Market. This is always a popular event and anxiously anticipated by several people in the community.

We are still looking for volunteers to join our Observer Corps. We are particularly interested in having people cover the village board meetings and the county board meetings. An observer attends meetings of the particular board and then writes up a few notes on important items that were discussed. You do not need to commit to attending every meeting, and the reports can be published in the Voter. If interested, please contact Shawn Fasules at 790-1966.

Thank you to Lucy Dallman who hosted our summer book club meeting. We had a lively discussion about the book, Unspun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation by Kathleen Hall Jameson and Brooks Jackson. Stay tuned for information on our fall book selection. We are looking for someone to coordinate this new activity. If interested, please contact Michelle Peterson at 858-2336

## NEWS FROM LWVUS

(For more information visit the website at [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org))

### **National Popular Vote Compact Study**

Delegates at the LWVUS Convention in Portland adopted a fast-track study of the National Popular Vote Compact. Carolie Mullan (TX), former chair of the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee, has been appointed to the 2008-2010 LWVUS Board to chair this study. Local Leagues are urged to save a date in January or February 2009 for a consensus meeting.

### **League Calls for Moratorium on New Coal-Fired Electric Power Plants**

The LWVUS Board has voted to support a ten-year moratorium on new construction of coal-fired electric power plants. This action is based on LWVUS environmental and energy positions and will reinforce the work the League is doing around the country to combat global climate change.

### **League Urges Congress to Choose Clean Energy Over Drilling**

League and other groups have sent letters to House and Senate members urging them to adopt forward-looking policies that would produce real changes in energy policy and reject calls to drill for oil in pristine areas.

### **LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force**

The LWVUS Board has approved formation of a Health Care Education Task Force to make recommendations to the Board about the design of the Health Care Education project, which was approved by delegates to Convention 2008.

### **League Partners with AAUW**

The LWVUS and AAUW encourage Leagues and AAUW branches to work together on voter outreach and education activities. By pooling resources, volunteers and expertise, we can extend our reach and build on our history of collaboration and partnership.

### **LWV and Boomster.com Encourage Voter Participation in 2008**

The League and Boomster.com, a new information and social networking site for baby boomers, are joining forces to promote political awareness and voter activity for the upcoming election. Boomster.com is a free, member site for experienced, well-informed people ages 45 and up, interested in issues about the next phase of their lives— whether new careers, volunteering or pursuing passions.

### **Voters Win in Missouri**

After a hard fought battle, the League and coalition partners in May stopped a constitutional amendment that would have required proof of citizenship and voter ID as a prerequisite to voting in Missouri. The coalition, Missourians for Fair Elections, held meetings with and encouraged over 4,000 constituent phone calls to State Senators, conducted press conferences, and worked with state media to inform voters about the potential negative effects of the proposal.

### **LWV of Florida Continues Fight Against Onerous Voter Registration Laws**

The LWVFL and others have filed a new lawsuit challenging a Florida voter registration law. The revised Florida law will produce a serious chilling effect on registration drives and disproportionately affects African-American and Hispanic voter applicants who are twice as likely to register to vote through voter registration drives. To learn more about third party voter registration issues and the ongoing assault on voters' rights go to [www.lwv.org/PAVP](http://www.lwv.org/PAVP).

## REPORT ON THE 48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Nearly a thousand people, including our very own Michelle Petersen and Kristin Malone, met in Portland, OR in July for the LWVUS National Convention. They report that there are 67,000 League members in the US, and that there is a vibrant, active, well organized grassroots League in every state in the country! Following are some of the actions taken at Convention:

- The League Principles were amended by adding: *The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. Government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.* The principles are concepts of government to which the League subscribes and serve as its authorization for adoption of positions and the basis for taking action.
- The Convention voted to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Also, delegates voted to increase educational and advocacy efforts on Health Care issues and to establish a multi-level Educational and Advocacy campaign to fight global climate change.
- The convention agreed to study the advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the president. This becomes the practice only when adopted by a majority of individual states. (*The General Assembly of Illinois has already adopted this position which would give all Electoral College votes of the State to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in Illinois*).
- The delegates increased per member payment amounts to \$28 for FY 2008-2009 and \$29.20 for FY 2009-2010.
- The delegates elected the nominated slate of LWVUS officers and directors.

## LWVIL POSITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes holding a Constitutional Convention at this time. We believe the present constitution is serving the citizens of Illinois and may be changed using the amendatory process where necessary. Only four chapters of the twenty-eight respondents did not reach consensus and no chapter supported a convention. Issues most often cited for opposition included the risk of exposing the entire constitution to revision and loss of important 1970 gains; the \$78 million cost of a convention when state finances are limited; previous successful use of the amendatory process; considerable concerns about the delegate selection and election process, particularly the impact of special interests on such processes; the risk of the current political dysfunction in state government extending to the Convention; and the presidential election resulting in voters distracted from Con-Con issues.



**Glen Ellyn League of  
Women Voters**

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**CHECK OUT  
OUR WEBSITE  
[www.lwvge.org](http://www.lwvge.org)**

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

## **SUMMER WINE AND CHEESE AUGUST 21, 2008**

Please join us for a fun and informative evening with our guest speaker, Dawn Bussey, Director of the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Ms. Bussey will discuss the exciting programs and services currently offered at the library and what else is on the horizon. There will also be brief updates on the CBP study, the Sixth Congressional District candidates' forum, and other League events and activities. Thank you to Ursula Bryant who will be hosting the event at her home at 431 Anthony Street beginning at 7:00 p.m. This evening is open to the public and is a great opportunity to introduce League to a friend.

### **WHY JOIN LEAGUE?**

Be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong.

Be actively engaged in affecting change on the local, state and national level.

To take advantage of leadership opportunities and to make an impact.

To meet a wonderfully diverse group of dynamic women and men.

Membership dues are \$60 for an individual and \$90 for a family. For additional information about membership, contact Sue Kamphuis at 469-2591.